

REMARKS

It is believed that the following remarks attend to all rejections and objections presented in the pending action.

RESTRICTION

Responsive to the requirement of restriction set forth in the non-final office action of July 2, 2004, we provisionally elect, with traverse, species C. However the Examiner has further required election of either sub-species I, which includes claims 2 and 8; II, which includes claims 3 and 19; or III, which includes claim 4. MPEP §806.04(f) requires that claims restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. The examiner's sub-species III as defined by claim 4 is not mutually exclusive from sub-species I or II. Clarification or removal of this subspecies requirement is requested.

Further, in accord with MPEP §806.04(e), "claims are never species" and "species are always the specifically different embodiments" - so we do not believe the Examiner's characterization of the sub-species is appropriate. Moreover, the Examiner states that the "different configurations of the pin as shown in FIG. 4" correspond to these sub-species; however the feature described in claim 8 depends from claim 6 and is not at all illustrated in FIG. 4. Clarification, or removal of the subspecies requirement, is requested.

Claims 1 and 16 are generic, not just claim 1.

With regard to the provisional election of species C, all claims 1-24 are readable on the embodiment shown in FIG. 6, even though all features are not shown in FIG. 6. That is, ventilation of passageways within spreader 84 is the limiting feature of species C; however this does not preclude features from the other claims. Claims 5, 10, 13, 21, 23 are claims with features specifically discussed in connection with FIG. 6.

New claim 25 is an independent claim that is generic to at least species C and E and including any reasonable interpretation of features disclosed in FIG. 4 (thereby attending to the Examiner's subspecies assertion).

There are now 25 claims and 3 independent claims. 24 total claims and 3 independent claims were paid for at the initial filing. Accordingly, a fee of \$18 for the additional claim may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. It is believed that no further fees are due in connection with this amendment. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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